

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-4, 10-13 and 20-26, and amend claims 5, 14 and 19 in accordance with the following list of claims.

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A The facsimile machine of claim 4, comprising:
a detection unit detecting transition points in a width direction in image data
representing an image of a page having a width greater than a printing width of the
facsimile machine, the image data including blank areas at right and left edges of the
image of the page in the width direction; and
an adjustment unit coupled to the detection unit, having means for deciding
whether the image data will be adjusted on the basis of the detected transition points,
wherein the adjustment unit has means for adjusting the image data by zooming
the image data, the adjustment unit zooms zooming the image data by adding an offset to
horizontal coordinates of said transition points, then multiplying by a zoom ratio, the
horizontal coordinates being measured in the width direction.

6. (Previously Presented) The facsimile machine of claim 5, wherein the image data is comprised of horizontal scanning lines and the adjustment unit changes said offset once per horizontal scanning line.

7. (Original) The facsimile machine of claim 5, wherein the adjustment unit assigns a random value to said offset.

8. (Original) The facsimile machine of claim 5, wherein the adjustment unit assigns a fixed value to said offset in areas with comparatively few said transition points, and assigns a random value to said offset in areas with comparatively many said transition points.

9. (Original) The facsimile machine of claim 8, wherein the adjustment unit distinguishes between said areas with comparatively few said transition points and said areas with comparatively many said transition points within each said horizontal scanning line.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~claim 13~~ processing image data, representing an image of a page, in preparation for printing of the image data by a facsimile machine having set printing margins and a printing width less than a width of the page image, the image data including blank areas at right and left edges of the image of the page in a width direction of the page image, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting the blank areas in the width direction in the image of said page from the image data;

(b) comparing the detected blank areas with the printing margins in the width direction of the facsimile machine; and

(c) modifying the image data according to differences between the detected blank areas and the printing margins,

wherein said step (c) comprises zooming the image of said page, and said step (c) further comprises the steps of:

(d) determining horizontal coordinates, measured in the width direction, of transitions between different picture-element values in the image of said page;

(e) modifying said horizontal coordinates by adding an offset; and

(f) multiplying the modified horizontal coordinates by a zoom ratio.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, said step (c) further comprises the step of:

(g) changing said offset once per horizontal line of picture elements in the image of said page.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step (c) further comprises the steps of:

(h) distinguishing between first areas, in which said transitions occur comparatively frequently, and second areas, in which said transitions occur comparatively infrequently, in the image of said page;

(i) assigning a randomly varying value to said offset in said first areas; and

(j) assigning a fixed value to said offset in said second areas.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said step (h) includes counting said transitions in each horizontal line of picture elements in the image of said page, said offset having a single value in each said horizontal line.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said step (h) includes comparing distances between said transitions with a predetermined threshold, thereby enabling said offset to vary within each horizontal line of picture elements in the image of said page.

19. (Original) A The method of claim 10 processing image data, representing an image of a page, in preparation for printing of the image data by a facsimile machine having set printing margins and a printing width less than a width of the page image, the image data including blank areas at right and left edges of the image of the page in a width direction of the page image, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting the blank areas in the width direction in the image of said page from the image data;

(b) comparing the detected blank areas with the printing margins in the width direction of the facsimile machine; and

(c) modifying the image data according to differences between the detected blank areas and the printing margins,

wherein the detected margins include a left detected margin and a right detected margin, the printing margins include a left printing margin and a right printing margin, and step (c) further includes the steps of:

(k) reducing the image of said page in width, by zooming the image horizontally, if the left printing margin exceeds the left detected margin and the right printing margin exceeds the right detected margin;

(l) shifting the image of said page rightward if the left printing margin exceeds the left detected margin and the right printing margin does not exceed the right detected margin; and

(m) shifting the image of said page leftward if the right printing margin exceeds the right detected margin and the left printing margin does not exceed the left detected margin.

20-26. (Canceled)